



**Technical Report Series on the  
Boreal Ecosystem-Atmosphere Study (BOREAS)**

*Forrest G. Hall and David E. Knapp, Editors*

**Volume 25  
BOREAS HYD-3 Tree Measurements**

*J.P. Hardy and R.E. Davis*

National Aeronautics and  
Space Administration

**Goddard Space Flight Center**  
Greenbelt, Maryland 20771

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NASA/TM—2000–209891, Vol. 25



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### **Volume 25 BOREAS HYD-3 Tree Measurements**

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*U.S. Army Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory (CRREL)*

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July 2000

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# **BOREAS HYD-3 Tree Measurements**

Janet P. Hardy, Robert E. Davis

## **Summary**

The BOREAS HYD-3 team collected several data sets related to the hydrology of forested areas. This data set contains measurements of canopy density (closure), stem density, and DBH from a variety of sites. Canopy density measurements were made during the FFC-W and FFC-T 1994 in both the SSA and the NSA. Stem density measurements were made during FFC-W 1996 in the SSA only. Canopy density measurements were made using a forest densiometer, while measurements of stem density and DBH were made using standard techniques. This study was undertaken to predict spatial distributions of energy transfer, snow properties important to the hydrology, remote sensing signatures, and transmissivity of gases through the snow and their relation to forests in boreal ecosystems. The data are available in tabular ASCII files.

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## **1. Data Set Overview**

### **1.1 Data Set Identification**

BOREAS HYD-03 Tree Measurements

### **1.2 Data Set Introduction**

This data set contains measurements of canopy density (closure), stem density, and diameter at breast height (DBH) from a variety of sites. Canopy density measurements were made during the Focused Field Campaign - Winter (FFC-W) and the Focused Field Campaign - Thaw (FFC-T) 1994 in the BOREAS Ecosystem Atmosphere Study (BOREAS) Southern Study Area (SSA) and Northern Study Area (NSA). Stem density measurements were made during FFC-W 1996 in the SSA only. Canopy density measurements were made using a forest densiometer, while measurements of stem density and DBH were made using standard techniques.

### **1.3 Objective/Purpose**

This study was undertaken to predict spatial distributions of energy transfer, snow properties important to the hydrology, remote sensing signatures, and transmissivity of gases through the snow and their relation to forests in boreal ecosystems.

### **1.4 Summary of Parameters**

Parameters measured with respect to this documentation are canopy density (closure), stem density, and DBH.

### **1.5 Discussion**

This study was conducted under the hypothesis that energy transfer and snow water equivalent (SWE) would vary spatially as a function of canopy closure. The goal was to obtain canopy closure data for determining either an average closure of a forest or the closure at a specific location (i.e., over a radiometer). Data were compared with canopy data obtained from aerial photography. Stem density data were used in calibrating a radiative transfer model for predicting incoming solar radiation at the snow surface in forested environments.

### **1.6 Related Data Sets**

BOREAS Forest Cover Data Layers of the NSA-MSA in Raster Format

## **2. Investigator(s)**

### **2.1 Investigator(s) Name and Title**

Robert E. Davis  
Research Physical Scientist  
U.S. Army Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory (CRREL)

### **2.2 Title of Investigation**

Distributed Energy Transfer Modeling in Snow and Soil for Boreal Ecosystems

### **2.3 Contact Information**

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### **3. Theory of Measurements**

The forest densiometer is used to obtain a quick measurement of overstory density at a point. The instrument consists of a convex mirror with 24 1/4" squares engraved on the surface. The mirror faces up, and the geometry of the overstory above is superimposed on the etched grid on the mirror. Canopy overstory is measured as described below. Stem density is determined by counting the number of stems in a given area. DBH is determined by measuring the circumference of the tree at breast height and converting it to diameter, or by using a tape measure that is precalibrated to DBH based on circumference.

### **4. Equipment**

#### **4.1 Sensor/Instrument Description**

Forest densiometer.

##### **4.1.1 Collection Environment**

Data were collected during winter conditions.

##### **4.1.2 Source/Platform**

Densiometer is hand-held.

##### **4.1.3 Source/Platform Mission Objectives**

The measurements of canopy closure and stem density were undertaken primarily to aid in the snow melt modeling effort. Stem density measurements were made at the location of the subcanopy radiation measurement. This information is valuable for calibrating the model used to estimate subcanopy solar irradiance.

##### **4.1.4 Key Variables**

Canopy closure, stem density.

##### **4.1.5 Principles of Operation**

Canopy Density:

The forest densiometer is used to obtain a quick measurement of overstory density at a point. The instrument consists of a convex mirror with 24 1/4" squares engraved on the surface. The mirror faces up, and the geometry of the overstory above is superimposed on the etched grid on the mirror. Canopy overstory is measured as described in Section 5.

##### **4.1.6 Sensor/Instrument Measurement Geometry**

Not applicable.

#### **4.1.7 Manufacturer of Sensor/Instrument**

Densiometer:

Manufacturer: Dr. Paul E. Lemmon

Distributor:

Forestry Suppliers, Inc.

205 West Rankin St.

P.O. Box 8397

Jackson, MS 39284-8397

(800) 647-5368

#### **4.2 Calibration**

Not applicable.

##### **4.2.1 Specifications**

Not available.

##### **4.2.1.1 Tolerance**

Not available.

##### **4.2.2 Frequency of Calibration**

Not applicable.

##### **4.2.3 Other Calibration Information**

A report by Ganey and Block, 1994 (complete reference given in Section 17.1), compared the densiometer with another technique for measuring canopy density. Although they were unable to determine which technique provided the most accurate measurement, they believe that for point measurements the densiometer is the best available "quick and easy" method. They did conclude, however, that the densiometer can yield different results when used by different observers. This problem was minimized in these data (see Section 10.1).

## **5. Data Acquisition Methods**

#### **Canopy Density:**

Once sites were located, the densiometer was used to determine the canopy density at that site. The densiometer was held at waist height and far enough from the observer's body so that his or her head was not visible in the mirror. The instrument was then leveled using the built-in bubble level. For each of the 24 etched squares, the square was divided into quarters and the number of quarter sections covered by canopy (1, 2, 3, or 4) was counted. The total number of quarter sections was recorded (up to 96 possible). Keeping the densiometer in the same location, the observer then rotated 90 degrees and counted again. This process was repeated until the canopy closure sections were counted in all four directions, and the four totals were recorded. The average of the four totals, was then multiplied by 1.04 to determine the canopy closure at that site (see formula in Section 9.1).

#### **Stem Density:**

To obtain a measurement of stem density, the area was measured and marked (e.g., 20 m x 25 m), and every stem inside the marked area was counted. The number of stems was divided by the area to get the stem density (see formula in Section 9.1).

#### **DBH:**

In the case of the SSA-Old Aspen (OA) site, the DBH of each tree in the marked area was also measured.



## 6. Observations

### 6.1 Data Notes

None.

### 6.2 Field Notes

None.

## 7. Data Description

### 7.1 Spatial Characteristics

#### 7.1.1 Spatial Coverage

Canopy Density: The canopy density measurements were collected at the following approximate locations:

SITE_ID	LONGITUDE	LATITUDE
SSA-OJP-FLXTR-HYD03-CND01	104.69203W	53.91634N
NSA-OJP-FLXTR-HYD03-CND02	98.62028W	55.93011N
NSA-OBS-FLXTR-HYD03-CND02	98.48027W	55.8801N
NSA-YJP-FLXTR-HYD03-CND04	98.29027W	55.90011N
NSA-YJP-FLXTR-HYD03-CND03	98.29027W	55.90011N
NSA-YJP-FLXTR-HYD03-CND01	98.29027W	55.90011N
NSA-OJP-FLXTR-HYD03-CND03	98.62028W	55.93011N
NSA-OBS-FLXTR-HYD03-CND01	98.48027W	55.8801N
NSA-OBS-FLXTR-HYD03-CND03	98.48027W	55.8801N
NSA-YJP-FLXTR-HYD03-CND02	98.29027W	55.90011N
SSA-999-NIB01-HYD03-CND02	104.59484W	53.75285N
SSA-999-NIB01-HYD03-CND03	104.59484W	53.75285N
SSA-90A-FLXTR-HYD03-CND01	106.19051W	53.63005N
NSA-9BS-HYD3A-HYD03-CND01	97.89026W	55.81011N
NSA-YBS-HYD03-HYD03-CND02	97.87026W	55.83011N
NSA-MIX-HYD03-HYD03-CND03	97.84025W	55.85011N
NSA-9BS-HYD3B-HYD03-CND04	97.82025W	55.87011N
SSA-BSH-110G1-HYD03-CND01	105.81221W	54.52526N
SSA-ASP-110H1-HYD03-CND01	105.8067W	54.50956N
SSA-999-110I1-HYD03-CND01	105.8098W	54.49536N
SSA-BRN-110J1-HYD03-CND01	105.8123W	54.48146N
SSA-ASP-110K1-HYD03-CND01	105.81W	54.46696N
SSA-CLR-110L1-HYD03-CND01	105.8024W	54.43746N
NSA-OJP-FLXTR-HYD03-CND01	98.62028W	55.93011N
SSA-YJP-122D1-HYD03-CND01	104.61914W	53.84426N
SSA-999-122E1-HYD03-CND01	104.61944W	53.84916N
SSA-MIX-122F1-HYD03-CND01	104.62214W	53.85586N
SSA-MIX-122G1-HYD03-CND01	104.60623W	53.89836N
SSA-MIX-HYD03-HYD03-CND0A	104.58044W	53.80006N
SSA-MIX-HYD03-HYD03-CND0T	104.58044W	53.80006N
SSA-MIX-HYD03-HYD03-CND0S	104.58044W	53.80006N
SSA-999-NIB01-HYD03-CND01	104.59484W	53.75285N
SSA-9JP-110A1-HYD03-CND01	105.83864W	54.60117N
SSA-MIX-110B1-HYD03-CND01	105.82606W	54.58848N
SSA-MIX-110C1-HYD03-CND01	105.82461W	54.57386N

SSA-MIX-110D1-HYD03-CND01	105.81851W	54.56146N
SSA-ASP-110E1-HYD03-CND01	105.81461W	54.54696N
SSA-ASP-110F1-HYD03-CND01	105.81301W	54.53426N

The stem density measurements were made near the SSA-Old Black Spruce (OBS) and SSA-OA towers. DBH was also measured at the SSA-OA site.

SITE_ID	LONGITUDE	LATITUDE
SSA-9OA-FLXTR-HYD03-STD01	106.19779	53.62889N
SSA-OBS-FLXTR-HYD03-STD01	105.11779	53.9871N7

### 7.1.2 Spatial Coverage Map

Not available.

### 7.1.3 Spatial Resolution

#### Canopy Density:

The areas over which measurements of canopy density were made range from 25 to 500 square meters.

#### Stem Density:

At the SSA-OBS and SSA-OA sites, the area covered was approximately 500 square meters.

**DBH:** The DBH was measured only at the SSA-OA site.

### 7.1.4 Projection

These data were collected at various points whose coordinates are given in latitude and longitude in the North American Datum of 1983 (NAD83).

### 7.1.5 Grid Description

Not applicable.

## 7.2 Temporal Characteristics

### 7.2.1 Temporal Coverage

Canopy Density: FFC-W and FFC-T 1994

Stem Density: FFC-W 1996

### 7.2.2 Temporal Coverage Map

#### Canopy Density:

Dates	Site
07-FEB-1994	Montreal Lake
08-FEB-1994	SSA-Old Jack Pine (OJP), SSA-Young Jack Pine (YJP)
09-FEB-1994	SSA Highway 106 at Triple Junction
10-FEB-1994	SSA-OA
13-FEB-1994	NSA Gillam Road
14-FEB-1994	NSA-YJP
15-FEB-1994	NSA-OJP
16-FEB-1994	NSA-OBS
24-APR-1994	NSA-OBS
26-APR-1994	NSA-YJP

**Stem Density:**

Dates	Site
03-MAR-1996	SSA-OBS
08-MAR-1996	SSA-OA

**DBH:**

Dates	Site
08-MAR-1996	SSA-OA

**7.2.3 Temporal Resolution**

In most cases, these measurements were taken only one time for each site.

**7.3 Data Characteristics****7.3.1 Parameter/Variable**

The parameters contained in the data files on the CD-ROM are:

**HYD03\_CANOPY\_DENSITY**

Column Name
SITE_NAME
SUB_SITE
DATE_OBS
COVER_TYPE
NUM_OBS
MEAN_CANOPY_DENSITY
CRTFCN_CODE
REVISION_DATE

**HYD03\_STEM\_DENSITY**

Column Name
SITE_NAME
SUB_SITE
DATE_OBS
PLOT_ID
PLOT_AREA
NUM_TREES
CRTFCN_CODE
REVISION_DATE

**HYD03\_DBH**

Column Name
SITE_NAME
SUB_SITE
DATE_OBS
DBH
CRTFCN_CODE
REVISION_DATE

### 7.3.2 Variable Description/Definition

The descriptions of the parameters contained in the data files on the CD-ROM are:

#### HYD03\_CANOPY\_DENSITY

Column Name	Description
SITE_NAME	The identifier assigned to the site by BOREAS, in the format SSS-TTT-CCCCC, where SSS identifies the portion of the study area: NSA, SSA, REG, TRN, and TTT identifies the cover type for the site, 999 if unknown, and CCCCC is the identifier for site, exactly what it means will vary with site type.
SUB_SITE	The identifier assigned to the sub-site by BOREAS, in the format GGGGG-III II, where GGGGG is the group associated with the sub-site instrument, e.g. HYD06 or STAFF, and III II is the identifier for sub-site, often this will refer to an instrument.
DATE_OBS	The date on which the data were collected.
COVER_TYPE	The dominant species, vegetation or type of land cover that exists at the location.
NUM_OBS	Number of observations of the given sample used to calculate given measurements.
MEAN_CANOPY_DENSITY	The mean canopy density at the site.
CRTFCN_CODE	The BOREAS certification level of the data. Examples are CPI (Checked by PI), CGR (Certified by Group), PRE (Preliminary), and CPI-??? (CPI but questionable).
REVISION_DATE	The most recent date when the information in the referenced data base table record was revised.

#### HYD03\_STEM\_DENSITY

Column Name	Description
SITE_NAME	The identifier assigned to the site by BOREAS, in the format SSS-TTT-CCCCC, where SSS identifies the portion of the study area: NSA, SSA, REG, TRN, and TTT identifies the cover type for the site, 999 if unknown, and CCCCC is the identifier for site, exactly what it means will vary with site type.
SUB_SITE	The identifier assigned to the sub-site by BOREAS, in the format GGGGG-III II, where GGGGG is the group associated with the sub-site instrument, e.g. HYD06 or STAFF, and III II is the identifier for sub-site, often this will refer to an instrument.
DATE_OBS	The date on which the data were collected.
PLOT_ID	This is the plot from which the measurement came.
PLOT_AREA	This is the area of the plot from which the measurement was taken.
NUM_TREES	The number of trees that exist in a particular plot.

CRTFCN_CODE	The BOREAS certification level of the data. Examples are CPI (Checked by PI), CGR (Certified by Group), PRE (Preliminary), and CPI-??? (CPI but questionable).
REVISION_DATE	The most recent date when the information in the referenced data base table record was revised.

#### HYD03\_DBH

Column Name	Description
SITE_NAME	The identifier assigned to the site by BOREAS, in the format SSS-TTT-CCCCC, where SSS identifies the portion of the study area: NSA, SSA, REG, TRN, and TTT identifies the cover type for the site, 999 if unknown, and CCCCC is the identifier for site, exactly what it means will vary with site type.
SUB_SITE	The identifier assigned to the sub-site by BOREAS, in the format GGGGG-III III, where GGGGG is the group associated with the sub-site instrument, e.g. HYD06 or STAFF, and III III is the identifier for sub-site, often this will refer to an instrument.
DATE_OBS	The date on which the data were collected.
DBH	The diameter at breast height (DBH) of the tree.
CRTFCN_CODE	The BOREAS certification level of the data. Examples are CPI (Checked by PI), CGR (Certified by Group), PRE (Preliminary), and CPI-??? (CPI but questionable).
REVISION_DATE	The most recent date when the information in the referenced data base table record was revised.

### 7.3.3 Unit of Measurement

The measurement units for the parameters contained in the data files on the CD-ROM are:

#### HYD03\_CANOPY\_DENSITY

Column Name	Units
SITE_NAME	[none]
SUB_SITE	[none]
DATE_OBS	[DD-MON-YY]
COVER_TYPE	[none]
NUM_OBS	[counts]
MEAN_CANOPY_DENSITY	[percent]
CRTFCN_CODE	[none]
REVISION_DATE	[DD-MON-YY]

**HYD03\_STEM\_DENSITY**

Column Name	Units
SITE_NAME	[none]
SUB_SITE	[none]
DATE_OBS	[DD-MON-YY]
PLOT_ID	[none]
PLOT_AREA	[meters^2]
NUM_TREES	[counts]
CRTFCN_CODE	[none]
REVISION_DATE	[DD-MON-YY]

**HYD03\_DBH**

Column Name	Units
SITE_NAME	[none]
SUB_SITE	[none]
DATE_OBS	[DD-MON-YY]
DBH	[millimeters]
CRTFCN_CODE	[none]
REVISION_DATE	[DD-MON-YY]

**7.3.4 Data Source**

The sources of the parameter values contained in the data files on the CD-ROM are:

**HYD03\_CANOPY\_DENSITY**

Column Name	Data Source
SITE_NAME	[Assigned by BORIS]
SUB_SITE	[Assigned by BORIS]
DATE_OBS	[Supplied by Investigator]
COVER_TYPE	[Supplied by Investigator]
NUM_OBS	[Supplied by Investigator]
MEAN_CANOPY_DENSITY	[Supplied by Investigator]
CRTFCN_CODE	[Assigned by BORIS]
REVISION_DATE	[Assigned by BORIS]

**HYD03\_STEM\_DENSITY**

Column Name	Data Source
SITE_NAME	[Assigned by BORIS]
SUB_SITE	[Assigned by BORIS]
DATE_OBS	[Supplied by Investigator]
PLOT_ID	[Supplied by Investigator]
PLOT_AREA	[Supplied by Investigator]
NUM_TREES	[Supplied by Investigator]
CRTFCN_CODE	[Assigned by BORIS]
REVISION_DATE	[Assigned by BORIS]

**HYD03\_DBH**

Column Name	Data Source
SITE_NAME	[Assigned by BORIS]
SUB_SITE	[Assigned by BORIS]
DATE_OBS	[Supplied by Investigator]
DBH	[Supplied by Investigator]
CRTFCN_CODE	[Assigned by BORIS]
REVISION_DATE	[Assigned by BORIS]

**7.3.5 Data Range**

The following table gives information about the parameter values found in the data files.

**HYD03\_CANOPY\_DENSITY**

	Minimum	Maximum	Missng	Unrel	Below	Data
	Data	Data	Data	Data	Detect	Not
Column Name	Value	Value	Value	Value	Limit	Cllctd
SITE_NAME	NSA-9BS-HYD3A	SSA-YJP-122D1	None	None	None	None
SUB_SITE	HYD03-CND01	HYD03-CND0T	None	None	None	None
DATE_OBS	07-FEB-94	26-APR-94	None	None	None	None
COVER_TYPE	N/A	N/A	None	None	None	Blank
NUM_OBS	0	9	None	None	None	None
MEAN_CANOPY_DENSITY	11	92	-999	None	None	None
CRTFCN_CODE	CPI	CPI	None	None	None	None
REVISION_DATE	21-JUL-95	21-JUL-95	None	None	None	None

**HYD03\_STEM\_DENSITY**

	Minimum	Maximum	Missng	Unrel	Below	Data
	Data	Data	Data	Data	Detect	Not
Column Name	Value	Value	Value	Value	Limit	Cllctd
SITE_NAME	SSA-90A-FLXTR	SSA-OBS-FLXTR	None	None	None	None
SUB_SITE	HYD03-STD01	HYD03-STD01	None	None	None	None
DATE_OBS	03-MAR-96	08-MAR-96	None	None	None	None
PLOT_ID	1	9	None	None	None	None
PLOT_AREA	25	500	None	None	None	None
NUM_TREES	12	57	None	None	None	None
CRTFCN_CODE	CPI	CPI	None	None	None	None
REVISION_DATE	17-APR-97	17-APR-97	None	None	None	None

**HYD03\_DBH**

	Minimum	Maximum	Missng	Unrel	Below	Data
	Data	Data	Data	Data	Detect	Not
Column Name	Value	Value	Value	Value	Limit	Cllctd
SITE_NAME	SSA-90A-FLXTR	SSA-90A-FLXTR	None	None	None	None
SUB_SITE	HYD03-DBH01	HYD03-DBH01	None	None	None	None
DATE_OBS	08-MAR-96	08-MAR-96	None	None	None	None
DBH	90	250	None	None	None	None
CRTFCN_CODE	CPI	CPI	None	None	None	None
REVISION_DATE	17-APR-97	17-APR-97	None	None	None	None

---

Minimum Data Value -- The minimum value found in the column.  
 Maximum Data Value -- The maximum value found in the column.  
 Missng Data Value -- The value that indicates missing data. This is used to indicate that an attempt was made to determine the parameter value, but the attempt was unsuccessful.  
 Unrel Data Value -- The value that indicates unreliable data. This is used to indicate an attempt was made to determine the parameter value, but the value was deemed to be unreliable by the analysis personnel.  
 Below Detect Limit -- The value that indicates parameter values below the instruments detection limits. This is used to indicate that an attempt was made to determine the parameter value, but the analysis personnel determined that the parameter value was below the detection limit of the instrumentation.  
 Data Not Cllctd -- This value indicates that no attempt was made to determine the parameter value. This usually indicates that BORIS combined several similar but not identical data sets into the same data base table but this particular science team did not measure that parameter.  
  
 Blank -- Indicates that blank spaces are used to denote that type of value.  
 N/A -- Indicates that the value is not applicable to the respective column.  
 None -- Indicates that no values of that sort were found in the column.

---

## 7.4 Sample Data Record

The following are wrapped versions of data records from a sample data file on the CD-ROM.

### HYD03\_CANOPY\_DENSITY

```

SITE_NAME,SUB_SITE,DATE_OBS,COVER_TYPE,NUM_OBS,MEAN_CANOPY_DENSITY,CRTFCN_CODE,
REVISION_DATE
'SSA-999-110I1','HYD03-CND01',07-FEB-94,'-',0,-999,'CPI',21-JUL-95
'SSA-9JP-110A1','HYD03-CND01',07-FEB-94,'Jack Pine',7,91,'CPI',21-JUL-95

```

### HYD03\_STEM\_DENSITY

```

SITE_NAME,SUB_SITE,DATE_OBS,PLOT_ID,PLOT_AREA,NUM_TREES,CRTFCN_CODE,REVISION_DATE
'SSA-OBS-FLXTR','HYD03-STD01',03-MAR-96,'1',25,18,'CPI',17-APR-97
'SSA-OBS-FLXTR','HYD03-STD01',03-MAR-96,'2',25,16,'CPI',17-APR-97

```

### HYD03\_DBH

```

SITE_NAME,SUB_SITE,DATE_OBS,DBH,CRTFCN_CODE,REVISION_DATE
'SSA-90A-FLXTR','HYD03-DBH01',08-MAR-96,190,'CPI',17-APR-97
'SSA-90A-FLXTR','HYD03-DBH01',08-MAR-96,210,'CPI',17-APR-97

```



## **8. Data Organization**

### **8.1 Data Granularity**

The smallest amount of data that can be ordered from this data set is a day's worth of data for a particular site.

### **8.2 Data Format(s)**

The Compact Disk-Read-Only Memory (CD-ROM) files contain American Standard Code for Information Interchange (ASCII) numerical and character fields of varying length separated by commas. The character fields are enclosed with single apostrophe marks. There are no spaces between the fields.

Each data file on the CD-ROM has four header lines of Hyper-Text Markup Language (HTML) code at the top. When viewed with a Web browser, this code displays header information (data set title, location, date, acknowledgments, etc.) and a series of HTML links to associated data files and related data sets. Line 5 of each data file is a list of the column names, and line 6 and following lines contain the actual data.

## **9. Data Manipulations**

### **9.1 Formulae**

Canopy Closure = Average of four counts x 1.04 = canopy closure (%)

Stem Density = Number of stems in measured area divided by measured area

#### **9.1.1 Derivation Techniques and Algorithms**

None.

### **9.2 Data Processing Sequence**

None, other than what is indicated above.

#### **9.2.1 Processing Steps**

Use formula above to calculate canopy density.

#### **9.2.2 Processing Changes**

Not applicable.

### **9.3 Calculations**

#### **9.3.1 Special Corrections/Adjustments**

Not applicable.

#### **9.3.2 Calculated Variables**

None.

### **9.4 Graphs and Plots**

Not applicable.

## **10. Errors**

### **10.1 Sources of Error**

Different operators of the densiometer may produce different results, depending on the operator's familiarity with the technique. For this reason, the canopy density data were consistently measured by the same person. The other potential error is in the ability of the operator to hold the densiometer level during a measurement. Ganey and Block (1994) suggest using a tripod to reduce error caused by observer movement. For this study, a tripod was not used in measurements of canopy density.

### **10.2 Quality Assessment**

#### **10.2.1 Data Validation by Source**

Aerial photography and forest cover data of the BOREAS NSA, provided by Manitoba Natural Resources of Winnipeg, were used to confirm measured canopy closures. BOREAS Information System (BORIS) staff used the forest cover data set at a scale of 1:15,840, to extract and grid the species cover and crown closure. Image analysis classified the YJP forest in the canopy closure class "31 to 50%", and the OJP and OBS forests both fell in the canopy closure class of "71% and over." Canopy closure measurements using the densiometer compared favorably with those determined from the aerial photo data (NSA, YJP = 42%; NSA, OJP = 86%; and NSA, OBS = 83%).

#### **10.2.2 Confidence Level/Accuracy Judgment**

The confidence level and accuracy of the canopy closure measurements is dependent on scale. One measure of canopy closure at a point, with its associated spatial resolution, provides a reliability of about  $\pm 1.3\%$  (Lemmon, 1957). To accurately characterize a forest canopy closure, several measurements with the densiometer should be made to account for the natural variability. The more measurements made, the greater the confidence in the data.

#### **10.2.3 Measurement Error for Parameters**

Not available.

#### **10.2.4 Additional Quality Assessments**

Not applicable.

#### **10.2.5 Data Verification by Data Center**

Data that were loaded into the data tables were spot checked against the original ASCII data that were submitted to check for data loading errors.

## **11. Notes**

### **11.1 Limitations of the Data**

These data were collected in winter. Canopy closure measurements in deciduous forests will be very different when leaves are on the trees.

### **11.2 Known Problems with the Data**

None.

### **11.3 Usage Guidance**

None given.

### **11.4 Other Relevant Information**

None given.

## **12. Application of the Data Set**

This data set provides data specific to selected sites for the purpose of calibrating radiative transfer and snow melt models. It may also be used as "ground truth" for comparison with forest cover maps.

## **13. Future Modifications and Plans**

None given.

## **14. Software**

### **14.1 Software Description**

An undetermined spreadsheet software package was used to organize the data.

### **14.2 Software Access**

None given.

## **15. Data Access**

The tree measurement data are available from the Earth Observing System Data and Information System (EOSDIS) Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) Distributed Active Archive Center (DAAC).

### **15.1 Contact Information**

For BOREAS data and documentation please contact:

ORNL DAAC User Services  
Oak Ridge National Laboratory  
P.O. Box 2008 MS-6407  
Oak Ridge, TN 37831-6407  
Phone: (423) 241-3952  
Fax: (423) 574-4665  
E-mail: [ornldaac@ornl.gov](mailto:ornldaac@ornl.gov) or [ornl@eos.nasa.gov](mailto:ornl@eos.nasa.gov)

### **15.2 Data Center Identification**

Earth Observing System Data and Information System (EOSDIS) Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) Distributed Active Archive Center (DAAC) for Biogeochemical Dynamics  
<http://www-eosdis.ornl.gov/> [Internet Link].

### **15.3 Procedures for Obtaining Data**

Users may obtain data directly through the ORNL DAAC online search and order system [<http://www-eosdis.ornl.gov/>] and the anonymous FTP site [<ftp://www-eosdis.ornl.gov/data/>] or by contacting User Services by electronic mail, telephone, fax, letter, or personal visit using the contact information in Section 15.1.

### **15.4 Data Center Status/Plans**

The ORNL DAAC is the primary source for BOREAS field measurement, image, GIS, and hardcopy data products. The BOREAS CD-ROM and data referenced or listed in inventories on the CD-ROM are available from the ORNL DAAC.

## **16. Output Products and Availability**

### **16.1 Tape Products**

Contact BORIS staff.

### **16.2 Film Products**

None.

### **16.3 Other Products**

These data are available on the BOREAS CD-ROM series.

## **17. References**

### **17.1 Platform/Sensor/Instrument/Data Processing Documentation**

Ganey, J.L. and W.M. Block. 1994. A comparison of two techniques for measuring canopy closure, *Western Jour. Appl. Forestry* 9(1)21-23.

Lemon, P.E. 1956. A spherical densiometer for estimating forest overstory density. *Forest Science*, 2(4)314-320.

Lemon, P.E. 1957. A new instrument for measuring forest overstory density. *Journal of Forestry*, 55(9)667-668.

### **17.2 Journal Articles and Study Reports**

Davis, R.E., C. Woodcock, and J.P. Hardy. 1996. Toward spatially distributed modeling of snow in the boreal forest. *Eos Transactions, AGU 1995 Fall Meeting*, Abstract, p. 218.

Davis, R.E., J.P. Hardy, W. Ni, C. Woodcock, J.C. McKenzie, R. Jordan, and X. Li. 1997. Variation of snow cover ablation in the boreal forest: A sensitivity study on the effects of conifer canopy. *Journal of Geophysical Research*. 102(D24):29,389-29,395.

Hardy, J.P., R.E. Davis, and G.C. Winston. 1995. Evolution of factors affecting gas transmissivity of snow in the boreal forest. In: *Biogeochemistry of Seasonally Snow-Covered Catchments* (ed. by K. Tonnessen, M.W. Williams, and M. Tranter) (Proc. Boulder Symp., July 1995). IAHS publication no. 228, p. 51-60.

Hardy, J.P., R.E. Davis, and R. Jordan. 1996. Snow melt modeling in the boreal forest. *Eos Transactions, AGU 1996 Fall Meeting*, abstract, p. 196.

Hardy, J.P., R.E. Davis, R. Jordan, X. Li, C. Woodcock, W. Ni, and J.C. McKenzie. 1997. Snow ablation modeling at the stand scale in a boreal jack pine forest. *Journal of Geophysical Research*. 102(D24): 29,397-29,405.

Hardy, J.P., R.E. Davis, R. Jordan, W. Ni and C. Woodcock, 1998. Snow ablation modelling in a mature aspen stand of the boreal forest. *Hydrological Processes*, 12 (10/11), p. 1763-1778.

Newcomer, J., D. Landis, S. Conrad, S. Curd, K. Huemmerich, D. Knapp, A. Morrell, J. Nickeson, A. Papagno, D. Rinker, R. Strub, T. Twine, F. Hall, and P. Sellers, eds. 2000. *Collected Data of The Boreal Ecosystem-Atmosphere Study*. NASA. CD-ROM.

Sellers, P. and F. Hall. 1994. Boreal Ecosystem-Atmosphere Study: Experiment Plan. Version 1994-3.0, NASA BOREAS Report (EXPLAN 94).

Sellers, P. and F. Hall. 1996. Boreal Ecosystem-Atmosphere Study: Experiment Plan. Version 1996-2.0, NASA BOREAS Report (EXPLAN 96).

Sellers, P., F. Hall, and K.F. Huemmrich. 1996. Boreal Ecosystem-Atmosphere Study: 1994 Operations. NASA BOREAS Report (OPS DOC 94).

Sellers, P., F. Hall, and K.F. Huemmrich. 1997. Boreal Ecosystem-Atmosphere Study: 1996 Operations. NASA BOREAS Report (OPS DOC 96).

Sellers, P., F. Hall, H. Margolis, B. Kelly, D. Baldocchi, G. den Hartog, J. Cihlar, M.G. Ryan, B. Goodison, P. Crill, K.J. Ranson, D. Lettenmaier, and D.E. Wickland. 1995. The boreal ecosystem-atmosphere study (BOREAS): an overview and early results from the 1994 field year. *Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society*. 76(9):1549-1577.

Sellers, P.J., F.G. Hall, R.D. Kelly, A. Black, D. Baldocchi, J. Berry, M. Ryan, K.J. Ranson, P.M. Crill, D.P. Lettenmaier, H. Margolis, J. Cihlar, J. Newcomer, D. Fitzjarrald, P.G. Jarvis, S.T. Gower, D. Halliwell, D. Williams, B. Goodison, D.E. Wickland, and F.E. Guertin. 1997. BOREAS in 1997: Experiment Overview, Scientific Results and Future Directions. *Journal of Geophysical Research* 102(D24): 28,731-28,770.

Winston, G.C., B.B. Stephens, E.T. Sundquist, J.P. Hardy, and R.E. Davis. 1995. Seasonal variability in gas transport through snow in a boreal forest. In: *Biogeochemistry of Seasonally Snow-Covered Catchments* (ed. by K. Tonnessen, M.W. Williams, and M. Tranter) (Proc. Boulder Symp., July 1995). IAHS publication no. 228, p. 61-70.

### **17.3 Archive/DBMS Usage Documentation**

None.

## **18. Glossary of Terms**

None.

## 19. List of Acronyms

ASCII	- American Standard Code for Information Interchange
BOREAS	- BOREal Ecosystem-Atmosphere Study
BORIS	- BOREAS Information System
BS	- Black Spruce
CD-ROM	- Compact Disk-Read-Only Memory
CGR	- Certified by Group
CPI	- Checked by Principal Investigator
CPI-???	- CPI but questionable
CRREL	- Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory
DAAC	- Distributed Active Archive Center
DBH	- Diameter at Breast Height
EOS	- Earth Observing System
EOSDIS	- EOS Data and Information System
FFC-T	- Focused Field Campaign - Thaw
FFC-W	- Focused Field Campaign - Winter
GIS	- Geographic Information System
GMT	- Greenwich Mean Time
GSFC	- Goddard Space Flight Center
HTML	- Hyper-Text Markup Language
HYD	- Hydrology
NAD83	- North American Datum of 1983
NASA	- National Aeronautics and Space Administration
NSA	- Northern Study Area
OA	- Old Aspen
OBS	- Old Black Spruce
OJP	- Old Jack Pine
ORNL	- Oak Ridge National Laboratory
PANP	- Prince Albert National Park
PRE	- Preliminary
SSA	- Southern Study Area
URL	- Uniform Resource Locator
YBS	- Young Black Spruce
YJP	- Young Jack Pine

## 20. Document Information

### 20.1 Document Revision Date

Written: 23-Apr-1997

Revised: 06-May-1999

### 20.2 Document Review Date(s)

BORIS Review: 12-Mar-1998

Science Review: 15-Jul-1997

### 20.3 Document ID

## **20.4 Citation**

When using these data, please include the following acknowledgment and cite the following papers:

The BOREAS HYD-03 subcanopy meteorological data were collected and processed by Janet P. Hardy and Robert E. Davis of US Army CRREL. Their efforts in making these data available are greatly appreciated.

Davis, R.E., J. P. Hardy, W. Ni, C. Woodcock, C.J. McKenzie, R. Jordan and X. Li, 1997. Variation of snow cover ablation in the boreal forest: A sensitivity study on the effects of conifer canopy. *J. of Geophys. Res.*, 102 (N24), 29,389-29,396, December 26, 1997.

Hardy, J.P., R.E. Davis, R. Jordan, W. Ni and C. Woodcock, 1998. Snow ablation modelling in a mature aspen stand of the boreal forest. *Hydrological Processes*, 12 (10/11), p. 1763-1778.

Hardy, J.P., R.E. Davis, R. Jordan, X. Li, C. Woodcock, W. Ni and J.C. McKenzie, 1997. Snow ablation modeling at the stand scale in a boreal jack pine forest. , *J. of Geophys. Res.*, 102 (N24), 29,397-29,406, December 26, 1997 .

If using data from the BOREAS CD-ROM series, also reference the data as:

Davis, R.E., "Distributed Energy Transfer Modeling in Snow and Soil for Boreal Ecosystems." In *Collected Data of The Boreal Ecosystem-Atmosphere Study*. Eds. J. Newcomer, D. Landis, S. Conrad, S. Curd, K. Huemmrich, D. Knapp, A. Morrell, J. Nickeson, A. Papagno, D. Rinker, R. Strub, T. Twine, F. Hall, and P. Sellers. CD-ROM. NASA, 2000.

Also, cite the BOREAS CD-ROM set as:

Newcomer, J., D. Landis, S. Conrad, S. Curd, K. Huemmrich, D. Knapp, A. Morrell, J. Nickeson, A. Papagno, D. Rinker, R. Strub, T. Twine, F. Hall, and P. Sellers, eds. *Collected Data of The Boreal Ecosystem-Atmosphere Study*. NASA. CD-ROM. NASA, 2000.

## **20.5 Document Curator**

## **20.6 Document URL**

REPORT DOCUMENTATION PAGE			Form Approved OMB No. 0704-0188	
Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 1 hour per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to Washington Headquarters Services, Directorate for Information Operations and Reports, 1215 Jefferson Davis Highway, Suite 1204, Arlington, VA 22202-4302, and to the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (0704-0188), Washington, DC 20503.				
1. AGENCY USE ONLY (Leave blank)		2. REPORT DATE July 2000		3. REPORT TYPE AND DATES COVERED Technical Memorandum
4. TITLE AND SUBTITLE Technical Report Series on the Boreal Ecosystem-Atmosphere Study (BOREAS) BOREAS HYD-3 Tree Measurements			5. FUNDING NUMBERS 923 RTOP: 923-462-33-01	
6. AUTHOR(S) Janet P. Hardy and Robert E. Davis Forrest G. Hall and David E. Knapp, Editors				
7. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME(S) AND ADDRESS (ES) Goddard Space Flight Center Greenbelt, Maryland 20771			8. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION REPORT NUMBER 2000-03136-0	
9. SPONSORING / MONITORING AGENCY NAME(S) AND ADDRESS (ES) National Aeronautics and Space Administration Washington, DC 20546-0001			10. SPONSORING / MONITORING AGENCY REPORT NUMBER TM—2000—209891 Vol. 25	
11. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES J.P. Hardy and R.E. Davis: U.S. Army Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory (CRREL); D.E. Knapp: Raytheon ITSS				
12a. DISTRIBUTION / AVAILABILITY STATEMENT Unclassified—Unlimited Subject Category: 43 Report available from the NASA Center for AeroSpace Information, 7121 Standard Drive, Hanover, MD 21076-1320. (301) 621-0390.			12b. DISTRIBUTION CODE	
13. ABSTRACT (Maximum 200 words)  The BOREAS HYD-3 team collected several data sets related to the hydrology of forested areas. This data set contains measurements of canopy density (closure), stem density, and DBH from a variety of sites. Canopy density measurements were made during the FFC-W and FFC-T 1994 in both the SSA and the NSA. Stem density measurements were made during FFC-W 1996 in the SSA only. Canopy density measurements were made using a forest densiometer, while measurements of stem density and DBH were made using standard techniques. This study was undertaken to predict spatial distributions of energy transfer, snow properties important to the hydrology, remote sensing signatures, and transmissivity of gases through the snow and their relation to forests in boreal ecosystems. The data are available in tabular ASCII files.				
14. SUBJECT TERMS BOREAS, hydrology, remote sensing signatures, transmissivity of gases.			15. NUMBER OF PAGES 19	
			16. PRICE CODE	
17. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF REPORT Unclassified	18. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF THIS PAGE Unclassified	19. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF ABSTRACT Unclassified	20. LIMITATION OF ABSTRACT UL	